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June 10, 2013

VIA ELECTRONIC AND U.S. MAIL

Ms. Caroline Kwan
Remedial Project Manager
Special Projects Branch
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway, 20th Floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

Re: Progress Report No. 23 – May 2013
Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Kwan:

Anchor QEA is submitting this monthly progress report for the Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) on behalf of the Respondents to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). As set forth in Section 42 of said Settlement Agreement, this progress report is divided into the following areas:

1. Actions taken to comply with the Settlement Agreement during the previous month
2. Results of sampling and tests and all other data received by Respondents to the Settlement Agreement during the previous month
3. Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays
4. Work planned for the next 2 months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

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1. Actions Taken to Comply with Settlement Agreement during Previous Month

- The updated project Gantt chart (dated April 15, 2013) was approved by USEPA on May 10.
- Split sample results for samples presented in the *Phase 1 Remedial Investigation Field Program Data Summary Report – Submittal No. 2* were provided to USEPA on May 10.
- Revised responses to comments on *FSAP Addendum No. 6 – Subsurface Sediment Archive Analysis* and the revised addendum were submitted to USEPA on May 10. USEPA approved the responses and the revised addendum on May 14.
- The Point Sources Workshop with USEPA was held in New York City on May 16. Items discussed during this meeting included: 1) point sources sampling goals and objectives; 2) recommended sampling locations and rationale; 3) recommended sampling methods and analytes; and 4) load extrapolation methods. A summary memorandum documenting the discussions during this workshop is being prepared and will be submitted to USEPA on or before June 21.
- Revised Upland Data Gaps tables were submitted to USEPA on May 16.
- A wet-weather observation survey was performed on May 24.
- The following activities continued in May:
 - Hydrodynamic and sediment transport model development
 - Groundwater and point source evaluations
 - Sediment geochronology data review
 - USEPA split sample comparisons
 - Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment (SLERA) and Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) development
 - *Phase 1 Remedial Investigation Field Program Data Summary Report – Submittal No. 3* development

2. Results of Sampling and Tests and Other Data Received by Respondents during Previous Month

- Final data validation and quality control (QC) review was completed for the following datasets, and results are included on the enclosed compact disc (CD):
 - Analytical surface water (November 2012 through January 2013)

- Current meter (November 2012 through March 2013)
- Post-Hurricane Sandy bathymetry (December 2012) and surface sediment (February 2013)
- Tide gauge (October 2012 through March 2013)
- Validation and QC review of the subsurface sediment archive samples were initiated.

3. Encountered and Anticipated Problems and/or Delays and Solutions Developed and Implemented to Address Them

- The validity and usefulness of the data retrieved from the field weather stations and current meters during Hurricane Sandy are being assessed, and the results of this assessment will be reported once the evaluation is complete. The effects of Hurricane Sandy on the overall project schedule are still being evaluated. Potential project schedule implications will be clearer once the results of the post-hurricane bathymetry survey and the spring 2013 surface sediment sampling are available and are assessed.

4. Work Planned for the Next 2 Months with Schedules Relating to the Overall Project Schedule for RI/FS Completion

- Project update meetings with USEPA are scheduled for June 20 (coincident with Modeling Workshop No. 2) and July 25 (coincident with Groundwater Sources Workshop). The date for the Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment Workshop was changed to August 13.
- The following field activities are scheduled for the next 2 months:
 - Wet-weather observation surveys (as needed)
 - Point sources reconnaissance surveys (to be scheduled)
- Efforts related to identifying data gaps to be filled as part of Phase 2 field activities will continue.

If you have any questions regarding this progress report, please do not hesitate to contact me at (201) 571-0912 (e-mail: jquadrini@anchoragea.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Quadrini", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jim Quadrini, P.E., BCEE
Anchor QEA, LLC

cc: Nica Klaber, USEPA Region 2 Remedial Project Manager
Michael Mintzer, USEPA Region 2 Assistant Regional Counsel
Ian Beilby, NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Remediation
W. David Bridgers, Common Counsel for Newtown Creek Group Respondents
Susan Amron, Counsel for Respondent, City of New York
Edward Leonard, CDM Smith